(d) whether Government will endeavour to stall such moves for contract farming of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) There have been suggestions in passing from certain quarters that contract farming, on a limited scale, particularly where foreign direct investment is concerned, could be allowed in the Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) Tobacco sector. The Tobacco Growers' Association have urged, however, that the present system be continued. At present, Government do not propose to change this system.

International sea food show at Goa

1867. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MPEDA has organized an International Sea Food Show at Goa recently;

(b) the details of this show;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the numbr of participants at the show;

(e) whether MPEDA has taken any steps to counter the negative image of Indian Marine products in the International Market; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the Seafood Exports Association of India (SEAI) have jointly organized the 14th India International Seafood Show - 2003 at Panaji, Goa, during 7-9 February, 2003.

(b) The major components of the show were an exhibition and 3 Business Sessions. 76 exhibitors representing various sectors of the seafood industry participated in the exhibition. The topics of the 3 Business Sesions were (i) Aquaculture and Fisheries; (ii) Prevailing Market Situations; and (iii) Seafood Quality and Chemical Contamination.

(c) There was an Organising Committee for organising the Show and expenditure incurred in this regard would be known only after the accounts are finalized.

(d) There were a total of 689 participants including Indian Delegates, Overseas Delegates, Aqua Farm Delegates, Exhibitors, Speakers and invited guests.

(e) and (f) In order to improve the image of Indian marine products further, MPEDA has been taking a number of steps including (i) an intensive publicity campaign in various overseas markets to build up the image of Indian marine products (ii) organising frequent buyer-seller meets so as to create a strong trade relationship; (iii) participation in International fairs; and (iv) inviting overseas experts to visit India and familiarize themselves with the infrastructural developemtns taking place in India.

Meeting of general council of WTO

1868. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Council Meeting of the WTO was recently held in Geneva;

(b) whether the long-pending issues of TRIPs and public health were discussed;

(c) what were the other items on the agenda; and

(d) the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) A meeting of the WTO General Council was held on 10 February, 2003. The agenda for this meeting included, among others, (i) report from the Chairman of the TRIPS Council on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health; (ii) report by the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) in Special Session on Special and Differential Treatment in pursuance of paragraph 12.1 of the Doha Ministerial Decision on Implementation-related Issues and Concerns; (iii) report by the Chairman of the Trade Negotiations Committee; (iv) report by the Chairman of the Dedicated Sessions of the CTD on the work programme on small economies; (v) appointment of officers to the various WTO bodies; and (vi) administrative matters relating to the 5th Session of the Ministerial Conference of WTO in Cancun, Mexico in September 2003.